

State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913 PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764 www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/

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## State budget completed; second consecutive

Contact: Maleigh Jackson

517-373-2420

budget with no new fees or tax increases
Sen. Garcia pleased to see issues key to the 22<sup>nd</sup> District addressed

**LANSING**—The Michigan Senate passed the fiscal year 2006-07 budget today, approving spending plans that are balanced without the need for increased fees and taxes, said Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell.

Garcia said he was particularly pleased to announce the passage of the K-12 School Aid Budget, which included an increase of \$210 per student in the foundation allowance and an extra \$23 per student to help correct funding inequities.

"It has taken us two to three years to begin to see movement on this issue," said Garcia. "I am glad we are finally seeing some progress in reducing the funding inequity. I hope this is the start to closing the gap."

Garcia said that with the completion of this year's budget and the recent passage of his Senate Bill 727, which creates the Defense Contract Coordination Center (DC3) to bring Department of Defense and Homeland Security contract jobs to Michigan, two major issues important to the district—education and homeland security—have now been addressed.

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